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**Department of Commerce and Insurance  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**TENNESSEE ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE AGREEMENT WITH MYSPACE TO  
BOOST SOCIAL NETWORKING SAFETY**

Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper and 49 states and the District of Columbia today announced that MySpace has agreed to make significant changes to help protect children on its web site. The proposed changes include creation of a broad-based task force to develop age and identity verification technology.

MySpace acknowledged in the agreement the important role of this technology in social networking safety and agreed to find and develop on-line identity authentication tools.

Other specific changes and policies that MySpace agreed to develop include: allowing parents to submit their children's e-mails so MySpace can prevent anyone using those e-mails from setting up profiles; making the default setting "private" for profiles of 16- and 17-year-olds; promising to respond within 72 hours to inappropriate content complaints; and committing more staff and/or resources to review and classify photographs and discussion groups.

The agreement culminates nearly two years of discussions between MySpace and the attorneys general. The states pushed MySpace for changes after sexual predators repeatedly used the site to victimize children.

“We appreciate that MySpace has agreed to make these changes,” Attorney General Cooper said. “We consider identity verification vital to help protect children using social networking sites from on-line sexual predators and inappropriate material.”

Under the agreement, MySpace will invite other social networking sites, age and identity verification experts, child protection groups and technology companies to participate in the task force. The task force will report back to the attorneys general every three months and issue a formal report with findings and recommendations at the end of 2008.

MySpace also will hire a contractor to compile a registry of e-mail addresses provided by parents who want to restrict their child’s access to the site. MySpace will bar anyone using a submitted e-mail addresses from signing in or creating a profile.

MySpace also agreed to:

- \*Strengthen software identifying underage users;
- \*Retain a contractor to better identify and expunge inappropriate images;
- \*Obtain and regularly update a list of pornographic web sites and sever any links between them and MySpace;
- \*Implement changes making it harder for adults to contact children;
- \*Dedicate meaningful resources to educating children and parents about on-line safety;
- \*Review its icon to report abuse to determine whether it should be modified or replaced;
- \*Create a closed “high school” section for users under 18.